

MFT 5350 Research Methods in MFT Fa 2019

Texas A&M University – Central Texas
MFT 5350-Marriage and Family Therapy Research Methods
Fall 2019
Tuesdays 2:00pm-4:45pm
Warrior Hall 314

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD

Office: Warrior Hall 318K

Email: d.harris-mckoy@tamuct.edu or Canvas inbox

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-4pm in office

Mode of instruction and course access:

This is a blended course which meets 75% face-to-face and 25% online. This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-instructor interaction:

I will be available to meet to discuss and resolve class-related issues during my office hours. If you cannot come to my office hours, send an email so we can schedule an appointment time. I will also check and reply to emails during all office hours. Remember that there is only 1 of me and many of you, so allow at least 48 hours for a response.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Course Overview

This course provides an overview of research methodology, data analysis, and the evaluation of research in couple and family therapy. Course will address how research informs MFT commons factors and evidence based practice.

Intended Student Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes – this course targets three of the MFT program’s **Student**

Learning Outcomes:

(SLO-1)- Demonstrate knowledge and appropriate application of classical and postmodern MFT theories. 5

(SLO-7)- Demonstrate knowledge of current trends and research methods in the field of marriage and family therapy

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It targets these SLO's through the following Course Learning Outcomes:

2.1 Students will demonstrate knowledge of the extant MFT literature, research, and evidence-based practices. (SLO-1)

2.2 Students will understand the legal, ethical, and contextual issues involved in the conduct of clinical research and program evaluation. (SLO-7)

2.3 Students will recognize opportunities for therapist and clients to participate in clinical research (SLO-1 & SLO-7)

2.4 Students will learn APA style writing. (SLO-7)

Required Reading

American Psychological Association (2010) Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN- 978-1-4338-0561-5

Sprenkle, D. H. & Piercy, F. P. (Ed.). (2005). Research methods in family therapy (2nd ed.). NY: The Guilford Press ISBN- 978-1-57230-960-9

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All writing submitted to the professor should be a final draft, free of spelling, grammatical, stylistic, and typographical errors. Students are encouraged to allow ample time for writing, keeping in mind the frequency of computer glitches. It is expected that you put forth effort in writing your research paper. If you choose not to put in effort and plagiarize material from other sources, you will either receive an F for the assignment or the course. You may also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for Academic Dishonesty. Please see the Academic Integrity policy

Assignments:

Article Analysis – Students are required to critically analyze an empirical article. (Addresses Course Learning Outcome 2.1 & 2.4)

Research Proposal- Students are required to create research project proposal. The proposal includes: (1) completion of CITI training (2) Finalizing research question (3) Submitting a proposal to a conference, (4) Summary of journal articles, (5) Research presentation, and (6) completing a research paper: literature review, methods, conclusion, and references. The topic has to be approved by the professor. The references for the paper must be published within the last 10 years unless it is a critical historical article for the topic. The paper should be between 20-30 pages in APA styles, and include at least 15 references. (Addresses Course Learning Outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, & 2.4)

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Assignment	Point Value	Point to Letter Grade Conversion
Research Question	5 points	A 179-200

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Journal Article Summary	10 points	B 159-178
Article Analysis	20 points	C 139-158
Research Paper	100 points	D 120-138
Proposal Abstract/Confirmation	5 points	F < 119
Presentation	40 points	
NIH/CITI training Certificate	20 points	
Total	200 points	

Posting of Grades

All student grades will be posted on the Canvas Gradebook. Students should monitor their grade status through this tool.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Aug 26 th (online)	Introduction to Course/ Research Topic		Start thinking about your research topic
Sept 3 rd	History of Research in MFT	Wampler, Blow, McWey, Miller, & Wampler (2019)	
Sept 10 th	Types of Research & Theories	APA Ch. 1 S&P Ch. 1	Research topic needs to be approved
Sept 17 th	Research Paper Structure/ Article Critique	APA Ch. 2	
Sept 24 th	Statistics	APA p. 116-124 Ch.5	Article Analysis Due
Oct 1 st (online)	Qualitative Methods	S&P Ch. 6, 7, & 10	
Oct 8 th	Qualitative Methods	S&P Ch. 3, 4, & 5	
Oct 15 th	Quantitative Methods	S&P Ch. 16 & 17	Journal Summaries Due
Oct 22 nd	Quantitative Methods	S&P Ch. 19 & 20	
Oct 29 th (online)	Using Human Subjects in Research	See Canvas for details	CITI/NIH Certificate
Nov 5 th	APA Formatting	APA Ch. 3. 4	
Nov 12 th	APA Formatting	APA Ch. 6, & 7	Papers Due Upload to Canvas by Nov 15th
Nov 19 th	Being a Research Informed Clinician		
Nov 26 th (online)	Academic Journals		Conference Proposal Submission Due
Dec 3 rd	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
Dec 10 th	Presentations	Presentations	Presentations

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students

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from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

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Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to

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students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting behaviors that pose a threat to safety, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses

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an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at
254-501-5800.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.

Research is not quick. It is a process of reading, thinking, writing, thinking, reading, editing, thinking, reading, writing, and editing. It would be in your best interest to begin reading journal articles for your research paper early. It would also be in your best interest to finish your paper at least 3 days before the due date to give yourself time to reread it with a clear mind. Enjoy Research!